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August 21, 1942.

Hon. William H. Smathers,  
United States Senator,  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Senator:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your kind letter of August 19th, instant, and for which I am extending my thanks.

At the Directors' Meeting of the Negro Baseball League, held in Chicago last Friday, August 14th, it was revealed that a number of players of both the Eastern and Western clubs which belong to the League have been approached by these "wild-cat" schemers from Mexico, by reason of which the very life and security of organized Negro Professional Baseball Clubs are at stake. The acts of these persons have become bolder and more pernicious and it seems as if they are nursing the idea that since nothing has been done to stop them, nothing will be done.

It is needless for me to tell you that the thousands of dollars which Negroes of this country have invested have been placed in jeopardy.

The success of my undertaking will be of great moment to me, and your aid in this matter will be heralded far and wide.

With best wishes for your success, I am,

Yours obediently,

RSH/m

Robert S. Hartgrove